

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 10-20 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursue the subject matter thereof in another application. Claims 1-9 stand rejected. Claims 1, 4-7, and 9 are amended. Claims 21-31 have been added. For at least the following reasons, Claims 1-9 and 21-31 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,613,483 issued to Lukas. Lukas, however, fails to teach a bolt port disposed through a lateral sidewall of the bolt. Lukas teaches locations 144 arranged through a rear end of the intermediate portion 38 of a piston rod 32. Lukas also fails to teach moving the bolt port in a sliding relationship across the sealing member. Rather, Lukas teaches a medial portion 38 of the piston rod 32 that engages a sealing ring 140. When fired, the forward movement of the piston 34 causes the medial piston rod portion 128 to move forwardly of sealing ring 140, thereby releasing compressed gas from the first chamber into the second chamber through a reduced diameter section of the piston rod 32. *See col. 5, lines 7-67.* Claim 1, as amended, and each of its dependent claims is therefore allowable over Lukas.

Additionally, however, claim 4, as amended, further recites that a sealing member is arranged on the bolt to prevent compressed gas from entering the compressed gas storage chamber when the bolt is in a firing position. Lukas uses an enlarged portion of the piston rod to engage a separate sealing ring in order to prevent compressed gas from entering the first chamber during a firing operation. Claim 4 is therefore believed to be allowable over Lukas for this additional reason.

Claim 5, as amended, requires that the compressed gas supply channel be arranged in a forward portion of the pneumatic assembly. Lukas supplies compressed gas through the rear of the assembly. Claim 6 requires an intermediate compressed gas storage area located between the interior of the bolt and a valve stem. Lukas does not teach or suggest such an area. Claim 7, as amended, requires that the bolt port extend across the sealing member when the bolt is in the firing position. Lukas does not teach or disclose such a feature. Lukas also fails to teach supplying compressed gas to the compressed gas storage area through an input port arranged near the forward end of the pneumatic assembly as required by dependent claim 8. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least these additional reasons.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,349,938 issued to Farrell. Farrell, however, also fails to disclose a substantial number of limitations found in these claims. Farrell fails to teach a bolt port arranged in a lateral sidewall of the bolt. Farrell also fails to teach a bolt port configured to move in a sliding relationship across the sealing member. Claim 1, as amended, and each of its dependent claims are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Farrell also fails to teach the limitations of the dependent claims. Farrell, for instance does not teach a valve stem having a sealing member that communicates with an inner surface of a bolt. Farrell also does not teach supplying compressed gas to the compressed gas storage chamber through a passageway in the valve stem, arranging a sealing member on the bolt to prevent compressed gas from entering the compressed gas storage area when the bolt is in a firing position, arranging an additional compressed gas storage area within the bolt, or a bolt port that extends across a sealing member. Each of the dependent claims are therefore believed to be allowable for these and/or other additional reasons.

Claims 1 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,769,066 issued to Schneider. Schneider, however, also fails to teach the limitations of the claims. Although Schneider shows bolt ports arranged through a sidewall of the bolt, it does not teach that these bolt ports move in a sliding relationship with respect to the sealing member. Rather, in Schneider, sealing members are arranged on opposite sides of the bolt ports on the bolt and travel with the bolt. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

Dependent claims 4-9 are further believed to be in condition for allowance over Schneider for additional reasons. Schneider, for instance, fails to teach a sealing member arranged on a bolt to prevent the compressed gas storage chamber from receiving compressed gas from a supply. Schneider also doesn't teach storing compressed gas in an interior of the bolt, or a bolt port configured to extend across a sealing member. The dependent claims are further believed to be allowable for at least these further reasons.

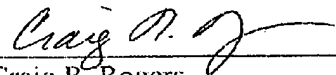
New claims 21-31 have also been added. These claims also recite subject matter not found in any of the prior art of record. None of the prior art teaches a bolt slidably arranged on a bolt guide where the bolt has a bolt port that slides across a sealing member on the bolt guide as recited in claim 21. The prior art also fails to disclose a bolt port that slides across a sealing member to release compressed gas from the paintball gun as recited in claim 31.

Numerous additional limitations of the dependent claims also present patentable subject matter over the prior art of record.

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 and 21-31 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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